

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



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Volume 44

## Food Waste In The City

The City of Los Angeles developed a three-year pilot program to address food waste from restaurants in response to its goal to divert 70% of its waste from landfills by the year 2020. The program is designed to reduce the need to transport waste to remote landfills at substantially higher prices once local landfill space reaches capacity.

To reach its new diversion rate goal, the City performed waste characterization studies on the various business sectors throughout the area to determine where recycling programs are needed. Results indicated that approximately 70% of restaurant waste is organic and can be diverted.

During the pilot phase, the City and the City's contracted waste hauler, Norcal Waste Systems (Norcal), hope to recruit approximately 300 restaurants to participate in this program. It is anticipated that over a three-year period, nearly 9,000 tons of organic waste can be diverted from landfills.

Participating restaurants are supplied with food waste collection bins. They are still required to maintain a separate waste collection service, but diverting the food waste reduces the amount of trash collected and lowers their collection costs.

The food waste is collected as often as necessary, often daily. It is delivered to a transfer/processing facility, owned and operated by Community Recycling, Inc., where it is cleaned of any remaining contaminants and then transferred to a composting facility in Bakersfield, CA. There, the food waste is combined with green waste and processed into compost. The finished product is sold to local growers in the Bakersfield area.



Location is a primary criterion for selecting restaurants to participate in the program. For ease of collection, the initial service area is limited and has a high concentration of restaurants. Other criteria include the restaurant type, in which a larger sit-down restaurant is preferred, and the restaurant's willingness to participate.

One of the goals of the pilot is to develop a self-sustained program. To encourage restaurants to participate, the program is initially subsidized by the City of Los Angeles through a special Recycling Trust Fund. The full cost of the program is gradually transferred to the restaurant owner over a three-year period. The cost of the program does not necessarily financially burden the restaurant owner because, as mentioned above, the

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**JOIN THE TEAM:** If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste* please contact **True Pawluk** at (626) 458-2112, or [tpawluk@ladpw.org](mailto:tpawluk@ladpw.org). Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

## Used Oil Center gets “Extreme Makeover”

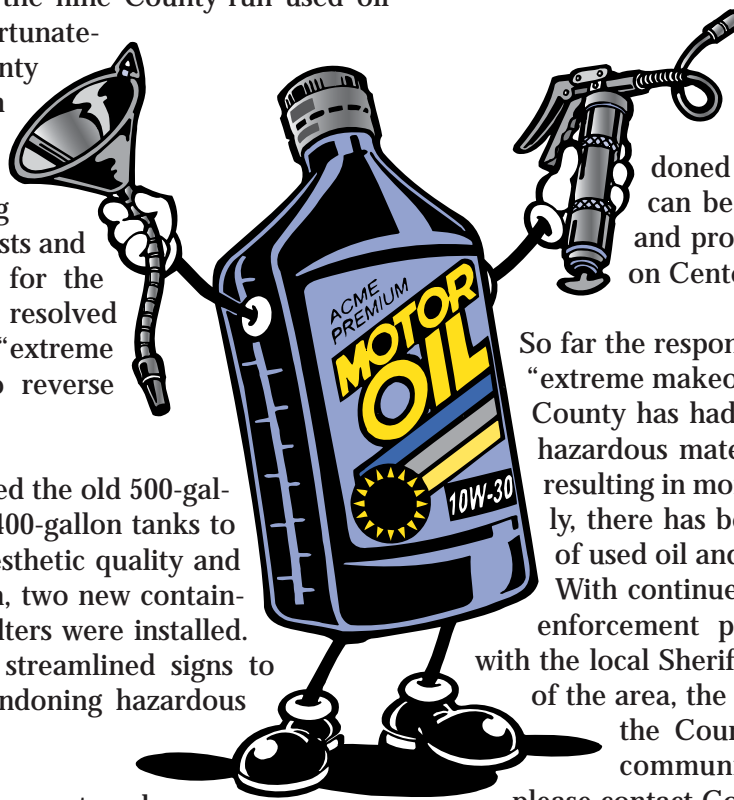
The Marina del Rey Used Oil Recycling Center has been collecting the community's used oil since 1995 and is the most popular of the nine County-run used oil recycling centers. Unfortunately, each year the County spends more than \$100,000 cleaning up hazardous waste abandoned at the site during off-hours. To control costs and to keep the site open for the community, the County resolved to give the Center an “extreme makeover” in order to reverse this trend.

First, the County replaced the old 500-gallon tank with two new 400-gallon tanks to improve the Center's aesthetic quality and ease of use. In addition, two new containers to collect used oil filters were installed. Also added were new streamlined signs to notify patrons that abandoning hazardous waste is illegal.

Second, flyers and other outreach material were distributed and made available at the site to inform residents about the new upgrades, remind them that the Center is for the proper disposal of used

motor oil and oil filters only, and to notify them that the Hyperion Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center is open to all residents free of charge and is located just two miles away in Playa del Rey. Much of the material typically abandoned at the Marina del Rey Center can be dropped off on any weekend and properly managed by the Hyperion Center.

So far the response from the community to our “extreme makeover” has been significant. The County has had a reduction in the amount of hazardous material abandoned at the Center resulting in money saved, while simultaneously, there has been an increase in the amount of used oil and oil filters collected at the site. With continued education and a stepped up enforcement program, including partnering with the local Sheriff's office to increase patrolling of the area, the Center is a shining example of the County's continued service to the community. For more information, please contact Coby Skye, of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-5163, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



## Food Waste

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cost of trash service is reduced due to the decreased amount of trash collected. Second, the participating restaurants can advertise their establishment as being “environmentally friendly.” The City publishes a list of restaurants that participate in various recycling programs to encourage the community to frequent those establishments.

An integral part of the program is the training and education of the management and restaurant staff. One of the biggest challenges to processing food waste is the quality of the incoming material. In the initial stages of the program, the level of contamination (i.e. plastic, metal cutlery, fabric, and food containers) was very high. In response to this challenge Norcal developed a multilingual training program on the proper separation

of food waste. The training includes site visits from multilingual training staff and the distribution of bilingual training material, such as posters and stickers, on what can and cannot be diverted through this program. Through continued education of restaurant staff, the level of contamination has dropped and the small amount not pulled out by restaurant staff is separated once it goes to the processing facility.

Since July 2004, approximately 90 restaurants have been recruited and are participating in the program, which has resulted in diverting 2,600 tons of waste from local landfills. If you have any questions regarding the food waste program, please contact Dan Myers with the City of Los Angeles at [dkmyers@san.lacity.org](mailto:dkmyers@san.lacity.org), or call (213) 473-8158.

There are six permanent collection centers where L.A. County residents can dispose of their Household Hazardous Waste.

Please read each permanent center description below for details or call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1(888)CLEAN-LA for more information.

#### **ANTELOPE VALLEY PUBLIC LANDFILL**

**1200 West City Ranch Road**

**Palmdale, CA 93551**

**1st and 3rd Saturday of each month**

**9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

#### **GAFFEY STREET COLLECTION CENTER**

**1400 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90021**

**Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

#### **HYPERION TREATMENT PLANT**

**7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B**

**Playa Del Rey, CA 90293**

**Open Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

#### **WASHINGTON BOULEVARD COLLECTION CENTER**

**2649 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90021**

**Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

#### **RANDALL STREET S.A.F.E. CENTER**

**11025 Randall St., Sun Valley, CA 91352**

**Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday**

**9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

#### **UCLA LOCATION**

**550 Charles E. Young Dr. West**

**Los Angeles, CA 90095**

**Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday**

**8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Electronic waste accepted on Saturdays only**

# What's Up?

**HHW ROUNDUPS** are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 8               | <b>Commerce</b> - Los Angeles County<br>Department of Health Services<br>5555 Ferguson Dr.                                  |
| Oct. 8<br>9am - 2pm  | <b>Florence/Firestone</b> - Los Angeles County<br>Department of Public Works<br>Road Maintenance Yard<br>2120 East 90th St. |
| Oct. 15              | <b>Monrovia</b> - Monrovia City Yard<br>600 S. Mountain Ave.                                                                |
| Oct. 22              | <b>Inglewood</b> - Hollywood Park Race Track<br>West 90th St., Gate 7A, East of Prairie Ave.                                |
| Oct. 22<br>9am - 2pm | <b>Lennox</b> - Park and Ride Lot<br>Hawthorne Blvd. and 111th St.                                                          |
| Oct. 29              | <b>South Whittier</b> - Los Angeles County Sheriff's<br>Department STAR Training Center<br>11515 S. Colima Rd.              |
| Nov. 5               | <b>Bellflower</b> - Simm's Park<br>Clark Ave. and Oak St.                                                                   |
| Nov. 12              | <b>El Segundo</b> - Raytheon Company<br>Hughes Way off of Sepulveda Blvd.<br>Parking Lot G                                  |
| Nov. 19              | <b>Monterey Park</b> - East Los Angeles College<br>Stadium Parking Lot<br>Bleakwood Ave. and Floral Drive                   |
| Dec. 3               | <b>Malibu</b> - Malibu Civic Center<br>23519 West Civic Center Way<br>(Rear Parking Lot)                                    |
| Dec. 10              | <b>Lomita</b> - Lomita City Hall<br>24300 Narbonne Ave.                                                                     |
| Dec. 17              | <b>La Verne</b> - Brackett Field<br>Fairplex Dr. and West McKinley Ave.                                                     |
| Jan. 7               | <b>Paramount</b> - Paramount Swap Meet<br>Overflow Parking Lot<br>7815 East Somerest Blvd.                                  |

## TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

November 17 - 1 p.m.  
December 15 - 1 p.m.  
in Conference Room B

January 19 - 1 p.m.  
in Conference Room C

For information  
call Andrea Wong  
at (626) 458-3547.  
M - Th, 7:00 a.m. -  
5:30 p.m.



# Conversion Technology Report ADOPTED

On August 18, 2005, the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) approved the *Conversion Technology Evaluation Report*, representing a culmination of 18 months of research and analysis by the Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee and URS Corporation. The report is the first in a series of steps toward a pilot demonstration conversion facility in Southern California.

Conversion technology constitutes a multitude of biological, thermal, and chemical technologies which can convert low value plastics and other unwanted material into a variety of products. These processes are capable of reducing net greenhouse gases and landfill disposal rates, generating valuable products such as electricity and green fuels, and creating a less polluted, more sustainable world, all in an environmentally beneficial way. Conversion technologies have the potential to revolutionize solid waste management in the United States by managing material that is currently sent to disposal and returning it to productive use. At present, over 140 conversion facilities have been successfully developed to manage municipal solid waste in Western Europe and Japan, however, to date no such facility is operating in the U.S.

The *Conversion Technology Evaluation Report* came to the following conclusions:

- Conversion technologies will increase diversion from landfills and enhance Southern California's solid waste management and recycling programs.

- The technologies considered appeared to be environmentally and technically capable of processing residual solid waste remaining after recyclables have been removed.

- Available data from Japan and Europe indicated that conversion facilities could operate within the regulatory framework in the U.S., and with advanced pollution control technologies could meet California's more stringent environmental regulations.

- Conversion technologies have been in successful, long-term use around the world.

- Economically, these technologies appear to have the ability to compete favorably with other solid waste disposal methods in a commercial facility.

The *Conversion Technology Evaluation Report* gives Los Angeles County the opportunity to become the first jurisdiction in the nation to successfully develop a demonstration conversion technology facility, in order to obtain real-world data on the impacts, benefits, and feasibility of these technologies. The timetable in the report projects that Southern California will have a conversion technology facility operational by early 2009.

If you are interested in a copy of the Conversion Technology Evaluation Report, please visit the Task Force's website at [www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org). For further questions or to request a hard copy, please call Coby Skye at (626) 458-5163.



## LARA UPDATE

On June 9, 2005, the Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) conducted its first Environmental Stewardship Recognition and Awards Ceremony at the Southern California Edison Regional Headquarters in the City of Rosemead. There were over 100 attendees. Four LARA member cities from the San Gabriel Valley nominated various businesses and schools within their jurisdictions to recognize their efforts in Environmental Stewardship. San Gabriel Valley LARA Cities who participated in this recognition were: Rosemead, Duarte, Pomona, and Sierra Madre. Elected officials and staff from each city personally thanked their winners. Individual businesses and schools within these cities were recognized for their ongoing or newly implemented outstanding recycling and diversion efforts and achievements.

This award ceremony highlights LARA's appeal to smaller cities who benefit from the potential cost savings of joint regional programs and large pools of expertise provided by the City of Los Angeles, as well as other LARA membership benefits. LARA members were asked earlier this year to vote on allowing Hermosa Beach and Palos Verdes Estates to join LARA. Both were voted in, taking LARA from its original 14 members to 16 members. LARA is planning additional training, media outreach, staff assistance and giveaways for outreach events as well as providing a consolidated annual report to the CIWMB for the next fiscal year. For further information or membership questions please call Karen Coca at the City of Los Angeles at (213) 473-8242 or e-mail her at [kaco-ca@san.lacity.org](mailto:kaco-ca@san.lacity.org).



***City of Duarte officials and businesses are recognized at the first LARA Environmental Stewardship Recognition and Awards Ceremony.***

# Puente Hills MRF

On June 27, 2005, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) opened the new Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), located near the Puente Hills Landfill in Whittier, CA. About 70 workers currently sort 200 tons of trash on a large warehouse floor eight hours a day, five days a week. Recoverable materials, such as cardboard, newspaper, scrap steel, film plastic, and scrap plastic are separated at the 217,000 square foot facility and sent for processing into usable commodities. The MRF operations recover about 25 percent of the commercial waste brought into the facility. Roll-up doors, adjustable vents, and a misting system keep dust, noise, and odors from escaping to the surrounding environment.

The first phase of operations has a processing capacity of approximately 500 tons per day. The facility is permitted to receive up to 4,000 tons per day. The amount of waste separated and transferred at the MRF will be increased depending upon market conditions and need.

Trucks enter the MRF through the same entrance as the Puente Hills landfill and travel on an internal road. The MRF recovers commodities from commercial waste that would usually be disposed of at the landfill. About 40 cities and the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County currently use the facility to drop off loads to be processed. The tipping fee is \$22.65 per ton.

The \$35 million facility will help solve the long-term problem of trash disposal in Los Angeles County. When the Puente Hills Landfill closes in 2013, residual waste from the MRF will be loaded into rail-compatible containers. LACSD plans to build a transportation link between the MRF and existing rail lines about 400 feet away. Trash will be taken by rail to a remote landfill in Imperial County.

If you have any questions regarding the Materials Recovery Facility, please contact John Kilgore at [jkilgore@lacsds.org](mailto:jkilgore@lacsds.org) or by phone at (562) 699-7411, ext 2731.

